

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----231921 015869 /40
O 231816Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9986

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 05419

NODIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR US VN
SUBJ: US-VN RELATIONS: SRV FONMIN'S REPLY TO
SECRETARY'S LETTER

REF: PARIS 03875

1. SRV FIRST SECRETARY DO THANH CAME TO EMBASSY AT
1730 FEB 23 TO DELIVER SRV FONMIN NGUYEN DUY TRINH'S
FEB 21 REPLY TO THE SECRETARY'S LETTER OF FEB 8. TEXT
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION OF THE LETTER IS
CONTAINED IN PARA 2. THE VIETNAMESE ORIGINAL, THE
ENGLISH VERSION AND A COPY OF THE SRV EMBASSY
TRANSMITTAL NOTE ARE BEING POUCHED TO EA/VLC. EMBOFF
TOLD DO THANH THAT THE LETTER AND HIS ORAL POINTS,
PARA 3, WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON.

2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEXT: QUOTE.

HA NOI, FEBRUARY 21, 1977.

MR. SECRETARY OF STATE,

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 8,
1977, IN WHICH YOU EXPRESSED THE WISH TO START A PROCESS
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LEADING TO THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM,
IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES AS WELL AS TO HAVE
AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

AS YOU HAVE KNOW, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM HAS REPEATEDLY STATED ITS READINESS

TO DISCUSS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THE SOLUTION OF
QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO EACH SIDE AND THE NORMALIZATION
OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS PROVIDED FOR
BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIET NAM. IN THIS
SPIRIT, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIET NAM IS READY TO RECEIVE IN HANOI THE PRESIDENTIAL
COMMISSION HEADED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S.
PRESIDENT.

IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING THE
VIETNAMESE-U.S. MEETING FRUITFUL, THE VIETNAMESE SIDE IS
PREPARED TO EXAMINE AND SOLVE WITH GOODWILL THE QUESTION
OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION AND OTHER MATTERS OF
INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES. THE U.S. SIDE SHOULD
ADOPT THE SAME ATTITUDE REGARDING THE U.S.
CONTRIBUTION TO THE HEALING OF THE WOUNDS OF WAR AND TO
POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION IN VIET NAM AND OTHER MATTERS OF
INTEREST TO VIET NAM.

THE VIETNAMESE SIDE BELIEVES THAT THE PERIOD FROM
MARCH 6 TO MARCH 11 OR FROM MARCH 16 TO MARCH 19,
1977 WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR THE VISIT OF THE U.S.
PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE TO HANOI. THE VIETNAMESE SIDE
IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER SUGGESTION YOU MIGHT
MAKE REGARDING THE TIMING OF THE VISIT.

TO ENSURE THAT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING IN HANOI
MAY PROCEED SMOOTHLY, I WISH TO PROPOSE THAT ONE WEEK
BEFORE THE U.S. PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE COMES TO
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HANOI, REPRESENTATIVES IN PARIS OF THE SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM AND THE UNITED STATES SHOULD MEET
TO PREPARE THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS IN HANOI.

PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. SECRETARY OF STATE, THE
ASSURANCES OF MY HIGH CONSIDERATION.

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 05419

NODIS

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

NGUYEN DUY TRINH
(S)

HIS EXCELLENCY CYRUS VANCE
SECRETARY OF STATE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. UNQUOTE

3. ORAL POINTS. DO THANH SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO
CONVEY TO US ORALLY THE FOLLOWING TWO POINTS:

(A) DATES OF VISIT. THE SRV HAS SUGGESTED MARCH
6 TO 11 OR MARCH 16 TO 19 BECAUSE DURING THESE TWO
PERIODS THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS COLLEAGUES WILL BE
FREE TO DEVOTE NEARLY FULL TIME TO THE AMERICAN COMMI-
SSION. IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE THE VISIT AT
ANOTHER TIME DURING MARCH BUT THEN THE VISIT WOULD
CONFLICT WITH VISITS OF OTHER DELEGATION'S AND THE
VIETNAMESE SIDE WOULD BE UNABLE TO MAKE ITSELF TOTALLY
FREE FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION.

(B) MEMBERS OF THE U.S. DELEGATION. HANOI WISHES
TO HAVE ASAP THE NAMES OF THE PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF THE
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US COMMISSION. WHILE IT WILL WISH TO KNOW ALL MEMBERS
INCLUDING SUPPORT PERSONNEL PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL VISIT,
IT WOULD LIKE TO KNOW SOONEST THE NAMES OF THE
PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS PRINCIPAL COLLEAGUES.
EMBOFF SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE A RESPONSE CONCERNING THE
DATES AND NAMES OF THE PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF THE
DELEGATION FOR DO THANH SOON.

4. PARIS PREPARATORY MEETING. DO THANH NOTED THE SUGGESTION THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN PARIS MEET A WEEK PRIOR TO THE VISIT "TO PREPARE THE CONTENT OF THE TALKS IN HANOI." HE SAID THAT THEY HAD IN MIND A MEETING BETWEEN DCM GAMMON AND THEIR FIRST COUNSELOR TRAN HOAN ALONG THE LINES OF THE NOVEMBER 12 MEETING. THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER A DIFFERENT KIND OF CONTACT HERE IF WASHINGTON PREFERS. DO THANH SAID THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETING WOULD BE DESIGNED TO SET FORTH THE IDEAS OF THE TWO SIDES ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED (I.E. THE AGENDA), AND WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO DECIDE ON SUCH THINGS AS THE RESPONSE WHICH EACH SIDE WOULD MAKE. DO THANH SAID HIS GOVERNMENT UNDERSTOOD THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL WAS ONE FOR AN EXPLORATORY MEETING, AND HANOI VIEWED IT IN THE SAME LIGHT.

5. DO THANH IMPLIED THAT FONMIN NGUYEN DUY TRINH WOULD BE THE PRINCIPAL MEMBER ON THE SRV SIDE, BUT CLEARLY HANOI IS WAITING TO SEE THE COMPOSITION OF THE US DELEGATION BEFORE INDICATING THE NAMES OF THE PERSONS WITH WHOM THEY WILL PRINCIPALLY DEAL.
RUSH

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